

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OES/OFA:LBROWN:CSA
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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCLR, TBIO, BF

SUBJECT: NMFS BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING STUDIES ACROSS
STRAITS OF FLORIDA

1. DEPT HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM NMFS TO OBTAIN CLEAR-
ANCE FROM GCOB FOR TWO NMFS RESEARCH VESSELS, THE GEORGE
M. BOWER (GMB) AND THE VIRGINIA KEY (VK), TO CONDUCT SUB-
JECT STUDY, WHICH WILL EXTEND PARTIALLY INTO GCOB WATERS,
DURING PERIODS MARCH 18-19 (GMB), 25-26 (GMB); APRIL 1-18
(GMB), 22-23 (VK); MAY 20-JUNE 20 (GMB); JUNE 24-25 (VK);
JULY 1-2 (VK) AND JULY 8-9 (VK). PURPOSE OF PLANNED
CRUISES IS TO COLLECT DATA WHICH WILL DEFINE AREA AND
PERIOD OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING. THIS INFO ESSEN-
TIAL TO DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR
BLUEFIN TUNA. EXPANDED SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RESEARCH
FOLLOWS BY ROUTINE TELEGRAM AND COMPLETE INFO, AS RECEIVED
FROM NMFS, BEING POUCHED TODAY. IT IS REQUESTED YOU SEEK
GCOB CLEARANCE FOR THOSE PORTIONS OF THIS RESEARCH FOR
WHICH ADEQUATE LEAD TIME EXISTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GCOB
REQUIREMENTS.

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2. DEPT HAS INFORMED NMFS THAT EXTREMELY SHORT LEAD TIME

MAKES IT UNLIKELY GCOB WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY TO REQUEST

FOR CLEARANCE FOR FIRST PORTIONS OF ABOVE RESEARCH.

NMFS HAS RESPONDED (1) PRIMARY REASON FOR LATENESS OF

WAS THAT BOWERS BECAME AVAILABLE FOR THESE STUDIES VERY UNEXPECTED AND (2) RESEARCH PLANNED SHOULD BE OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST TO GCOB AND (3) SINCE SPAWNING SEASON FOR TUNA NOT WELL-DEFINED, IT IS IMPORTANT THIS PLANNED RESEARCH BE INITIATED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF SPAWNING SEASON, I.E., ASAP. NMFS HAS ASKED WE PROCEED WITH CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR EARLY RESEARCH ON THE BASIS OF THESE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES. NMFS HAS RECOMMENDED DEPT CONTACT MR. C.E.M. SMITH, DIRECTOR, GCOB MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, TO ENLIST HIS SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT.

4. WE SUGGEST YOU CONTACT SMITH TO DETERMINE IF HIS OFFICE IS INTERESTED IN THIS RESEARCH AND TO OBTAIN HIS VIEWS ON LIKELIHOOD OF GCOB GRANTING CLEARANCE FOR EARLY PORTIONS OF RESEARCH. IF IN YOUR JUDGMENT IT THEN APPEARS THAT REASONABLE CHANCE EXISTS FOR GCOB TO APPROVE ANY OF THE EARLY PORTIONS OF RESEARCH, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK GCOB APPROVAL FOR THIS EARLY WORK AS WELL. IF NOT, THEN PLEASE INFORM DEPT AND WE WILL SO ADVISE NMFS. INGERSOLL

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